WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for processing filter material for use in the manufacture of tobacco industry filters, the method comprising the steps of:

feeding a mass of finite fibers to a separating device;

separating the finite fibers into essentially individual separated fibers; and

transporting the separated fibers to a continuous rod machine.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the transporting step includes transporting the separated fibers at least in part with the aid of an air flow.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the separating step includes separating the fibers at least in part with the aid of an air flow.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the separating device comprises a device provided with a plurality of openings, and the separating step includes passing the fibers through the plurality of openings.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the feeding step includes supplying the fibers to the separating device at least in part by means of an air flow.

6. The method according to claims 1, wherein the separating step comprises more than one separating step.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the mass of finite fibers are a composite of fibers that have previously been separated into a less dense mass or masses.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one metering step is provided for the controlled metering of fibers or fiber masses to at least one method step.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein the at least one metering step occurs during the separating step.

10. The method according to claim 1, wherein fibers of different compositions are used.

11. The method according to claim 10, wherein the different fibers are mixed.

12. The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one additive is combined with the fibers transported to the continuous rod machine.

13. The method according to claim 1, wherein at least two metering steps are completed prior to the transporting of the fibers to the continuous rod machine.

14. The method according to claim 1, wherein the average fiber diameter is in the range of 10 to 40μm, in particular 20 to 38μm.

15. A method for producing filters in the tobacco industry, the method comprising the method for processing filter material according to claim 1, and further comprising the steps of forming a continuous fiber rod and dividing the continuous fiber rod into filter rod sections.

16. The method according to 15, wherein the fiber length transported to the continuous rod machine is shorter than the length of divided filter rod section.

17. An arrangement for processing a mass of filter material comprised of finite fibers for use in the manufacture of filters in the tobacco industry, said arrangement comprising:

at least one separating device operative to separate the mass of fiber material into essentially individual finite fibers, wherein. the separating device permits an essentially complete separation of the finite fibers;

at least one metering device to effect a controlled metering of fibers to the at least one separating device; and

at least one means for feeding the filter material from the at least one metering device to the at least one separating device.

18. The processing arrangement according to claim 17, wherein the means for feeding comprises an air flow.

19. The arrangement according to claim 17, wherein the at least one device for separating the fibers comprises an air flow.

20. The arrangement according to claim 17, wherein the separating device comprises a device provided with a plurality of openings for passing the fibers therethrough.

21. The processing arrangement according to claim 17, wherein the metering device comprises a drop chute from which a rotating roller removes the fibers.

22. The processing arrangement according to claim 21, wherein the metering device further comprises a pair of feed rollers in the lower region of the metering device.

23. The processing arrangement according to claim 17, wherein the separating device comprises at least one rotating element, and at least one element provided with a plurality of openings and an air flow.

24. The processing arrangement according claim 17, wherein the metering device comprises a fiber separating element.

25. The processing arrangement according to claim 17, further comprising a mixing device for mixing fibers and other filter additives of different compositions together.

26. The processing arrangement according to claim 25, wherein the mixing device comprises a fiber separating element.

27. The processing arrangement according to claim 25, wherein the mixing device comprises a fiber metering element.

28. The processing arrangement according to claim 17, wherein the finite fibers have an average fiber diameter in the range of 10 to 40μm.

29. The processing arrangement according to claim 17, wherein the finite fibers have an average fiber diameter in the range of from about 20 to about 38μm.

30. Filter rod sections produced according to the method of claim 15.